



Annual Report 2021



@SusHijos



Sus Hijos / His Children



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Introduction

The COVID pandemic has and continues to affect us and the rest of the world. Here in El Salvador, we have suffered with high unemployment rates, higher death rates and mental health repercussions. Gang violence has risen as well as the abuse of children, especially young women, and girls and boys. More parents are abandoning their children or giving them to other family members who do not want them to look for work in other countries.

We continue to support the orphanages and the youth incarceration centers that we work with because we know that without Christ, education, and grace they will not be able to change. This is the reason why we are still doing the many projects that we do at His Children. We want them to have a better life, an education, a life full of hopes and dreams with mental and spiritual help from the past that haunts them every day.

We have had a very busy 2021, working with the centers during the different covid breakouts, building homes, hosting mission teams, our homes building project, transition house program, feeding the communities, the States Diner culinary school and moving into our new HOME. Without the teams, volunteers, short- and long-term missionaries we would not have achieved as much as we have. We not only want to show them Christ's love and grace; we want to live it with them, day by day. Without our donors, monthly supporters, one-time donations, and gifts in kind we would not be able to do what we do on a daily basis here in El Salvador. We are continuing to press forward, growing our projects because we are committed to the children and young adults that we are called to serve here in El Salvador.

We are excited to present you our year in review and to continue "Working for the Lord, Working for His Children".

Foundation General Information

Sus Hijos / His Children Foundation is a non-governmental organization created in 2011 to help children and adolescents in the government and private orphanages and incarcerated youth in El Salvador.

After the Ackermann family moved here to El Salvador in 2003, being called by God to work for the children, they started with the ministry of visiting orphans at the centers and implementing projects to reunite families and show them the love and grace of God.

We wanted to make a difference in the lives of the children, restore families and keep them together, when possible, or become the fathers and mothers that they never had. For that reason, we are constantly growing to meet the ongoing needs of His Children.

- **What we believe:**

We believe that the Bible is the word of God. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross to forgive us of our sins. We believe in the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Trinity. We believe that God can do anything through prayer. We believe in Grace.

- **Our hope:**

That every child that is in the orphanages and prisons will have an education upon which they can build a better life and job skills that will support them and their families. That they would have healthy families both mentally and physically. That they will have a loving relationship with God, and one day, eliminate all orphanages, thus a healed generation.

Our projects

As a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) we provide humanitarian aid to communities, families, and the Salvadoran people through projects and activities.

Our projects:

1) Culinary School Program States Diner	
2) Transition Houses	
3) House Building	
4) Bible Study	
5) Feeding the Homeless	
6) Mission Teams	

1. Culinary School Program States Diner.



- Program description:

The States Diner Culinary School Program was started for orphans, incarcerated youth aging out of private and governmental-supported orphanages in El Salvador, or government education support programs. Our program is a combination of four projects in five locations: the main location States Diner, a bakery called the States Bakes, and two snack bars called States Diner Café and our newest restaurant called the States Diner Station.

- Beneficiaries:

Children and young adults who are in or have left orphanages and currently incarcerated youth. This is their first job experience and first bank account that they will open to get paid, the first time they have to show up on time, clean and ready to work. With references and proper training this will provide them with the opportunities to find other employment in a country with a high unemployment rate and opens the door to a better future.

- Goals achieved in 2021:

Working with new government programs and the youth prisons:

This year we started working with new centers and government programs as well as the juvenile detention centers and people in general so that they may experience all the different aspects of working for a restaurant.



Increasing the quality of our products:

During 2021 we have made many improvements and have increased the menu to meet the standards that customers desire. States Bakes has changed and improved the production of bread and sweets that are sold to other restaurants and independent customers who want to support us and believe in our mission and vision.

Relationship with suppliers:

We have also grown our network of suppliers to make sure that as our program grows, the relationship with our suppliers has also expanded, which makes us a committed and responsible institution in the market with strategic positioning.

CULINARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Number of Locations	Beneficiaries	Total, investment
5	100+	\$781,508.49

2. Transition Houses

- Program description:

The project began in 2012, supporting young adults and teenagers from both public and private children protection centers across El Salvador. When these teenagers turn eighteen, they are required to leave the centers where they have been most of their lives, forcing them into independence and a reality very different from what they are used to. Most of them have tragic histories that they must overcome. We are called to be the moms, dads, sisters, brothers, grandparents, and friends to these kids.



- Beneficiaries:

Young adults who turn 18 inside an orphanage, youth detention centers or off the streets, the ones who do not have family resources or a place to live. Under 18 youth assigned to us by the Judges of El Salvador.

TRANSITION HOUSES

Transition houses	Total investment
2	\$64,848.91

Boys Transition House (BTH):



The Transition House called “Bosques de Paz” is specially designed for young adult males who are 18 years old, and underage youth that are assigned to us by the judges in El Salvador. The program lasts two years and during that time the young adults we work with receive training in Spiritual, physical, mental, academic and professional/work areas.

The maximum number of young men that the program is available to support is 12 boys. We are growing up with those kids and every step, no matter how little, a step is.

- Goals achieved in 2021:

1. We had 12 young men, and one underage boy in the program
2. 3 young men are currently studying in the university, 2 of them for Business Administration and one a Psychology degree.
3. 3 young men who completed their ninth-grade education, one in seventh grade and one in eighth grade.
4. More than half of our young men are working in our Culinary School Program “States Diner” which means that they are improving their culinary skills.



GIRLS TRANSITION HOUSE

This house is for the young ladies who are 18 years old and have aged out of the government and private centers. We encourage them to be strong women of the next generation of El Salvador. They come with their own specific set of challenges but have also grown up in the macho Latino culture in the small communities where they come from. We work with them on the 5 main areas, spiritual, education, physical health, mental health, and job skills. We want to see them be the change in El Salvador. We are so encouraged by the changes that these girls have made in their lives. We are committed to them; they are our own children.

Goals achieved in 2021

1. We had 7 girls throughout the year.
2. 3 girls in the university, one of them graduated with her degree in “Técnico en Hostelería y Turismo” (Hotel and tourism, Minor in Hotel Management)
3. 3 girls completed 9th grade.
4. One high school graduate, 11th grade.
5. 2 girls work in the Culinary School Program “States Diner.” The others girls work in other restaurants and businesses
6. All the girls who are in our program receive English classes.

3. House Building.



- Program description:

Our main goal is to prevent kids from being taken away from their families by governmental institutions and prevent them from being put in foster care centers; or even worse. One of our main concerns is that because of the lack of opportunities and by not having a roof over their heads, kids end up on the streets or involved with gangs. We work closely with ISNA and CONNA which are both institutions that oversee the well-being of the children in El Salvador. In most cases we go through the application process with families that have been referred directly by either ISNA or CONNA. They send us information about families that are in danger of being separated because of bad living conditions for their children due to poverty.

- Beneficiaries:

Single moms, couples, grandparents that do not have the resources or ability to have a safe home for their kids. They do not have to pay a dime. They have to provide sweat-equity. This is accomplished 100% with donations and teams that we have visited us. Our goal is to bring families back together and give them a hand up, not a handout.

Goals achieved in 2021

- We built homes for 14 families including permeant forever homes.
- 9 wood houses 5 concrete houses
- We have changed our application process to allow more families to apply to our program.
- We encourage families to keep kids in school, because many of the parents or relatives, never went to school and never graduated.



HOMES BUILT

Houses built	Beneficiaries	Total, investment
14	58	\$93,804.24

4. Bible Studies



- Program description:

In December 2016, Sus Hijos Foundation was one of the first in the country to receive training for the CBS program and in January 2017 we began the program to develop it within the orphanages and centers in which we work, both public and private. The CBS program objective is to teach all youth and children about Christ and the word of God. It is now a separate non-profit organization here in El Salvador.

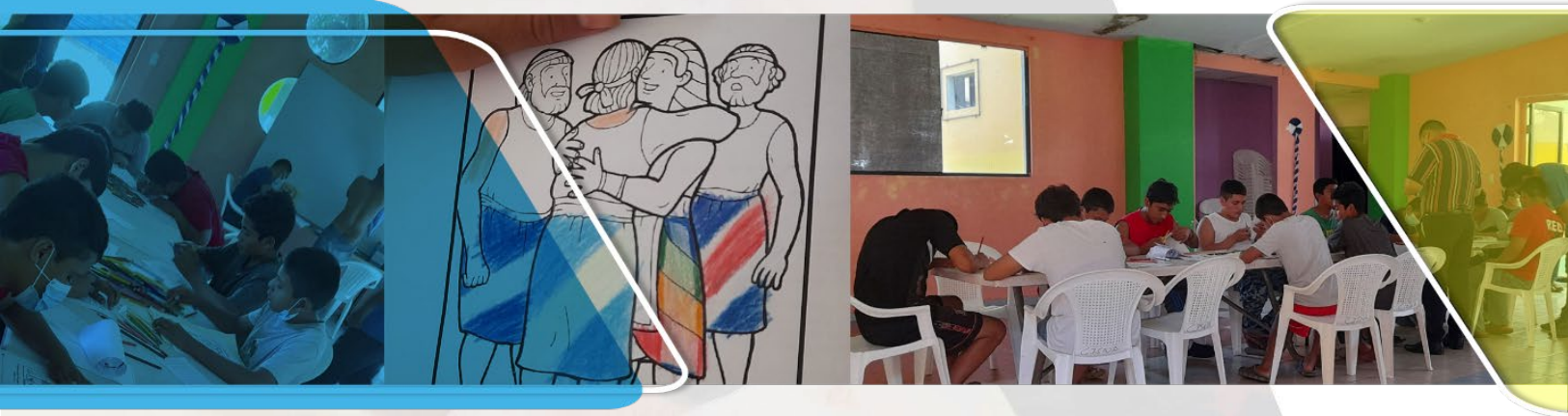
The classes in the centers allow us to have a close relationship with the youth and children who are part of these centers.

Our classes are a program of bible studies that we develop through classes about values in private and public centers of the country where boys and girls are taught about reading the Bible and seeking a closer relationship with God.

- Beneficiaries:

More than 350 children and young adults who are in orphanages or incarcerated youth centers.

- Due to the various lockdowns of the past year with COVID we are still happy that we finished 50% of the classes. 60% of the students did their homework and studied during the week. This is big for us because many of our kids cannot read or write.
- We know that this is God's, but we are fortunate that we are one of the only foundations in El Salvador that has an agreement with the government and has weekly access to the children we serve. This is when we start to build relationships with the kids so that we can walk with them in the future.
- We can teach them how to pray and know that God is accessible to everyone, not just good people. We also try to encourage them emotionally.
- We also strengthened our relationships with the Directors of the centers and the bosses of the directors so that we are all on the same page. We are making a better future for these kids.



CBS PROGRAM

Number children attended per class	Beneficiaries	Total investment per year
25	350 children and young adults	\$ 14,274.00

5. Feeding the Homeless



- Program description:

It is our desire to see this ministry nourish not only the physical needs, but the spiritual needs of those who are often forgotten.

Many of these people are children who have run away or have aged out from the government centers and had nowhere else to go than the streets, some others are drug addicts or alcoholics that live on the streets of San Salvador. We feed them all, prostitutes, drunks, drug addicts, and people like us. When a person gets to this point in life it is hard to get out of it. We don't hold back. We go out late at night to feed the homeless. This is the time they can find somewhere to sleep. We feed them whenever we can. Sometimes receive enough donations to feed them three or four times a week, we drive around the city of San Salvador looking for homeless people. If you ever get to come with us, you'll see how special this time is. We use this time to worship GOD, to say a little prayer for His peeps, to share His love. You'll see how truly humbling this experience is, just to know that you're helping the homeless have dinner makes it completely worth it. This is a tough ministry.

- Beneficiaries:

People living or sleeping on San Salvadoran streets who have no resources. Young adults, seniors, prostitutes, homosexuals, transvestites, handicapped people, Christians, non-Christians, anyone and everyone.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Average # of meals per night	Cost per feeding	Total investment per year	Number of beneficiaries
150	300	\$10,360.45	150



6. Mission Teams

Is God calling you?

“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Acts 13:47

During the year we receive different teams from the United States and Canada who come to work with us and be part of all the activities we do as an organization in El Salvador. Our teams can either be part of our daily activities with CBS Bible Study we have during the week. We also build houses for families in El Salvador, feed the homeless, have parties or activities in the centers we work with, or do as many other creative things that can help build relationships and make a difference in the children’s lives. Every time a team is here, we also have an amazing group of translators that during the year when we have no teams, they volunteer to all different activities we do. You can be a part of us as a long-term missionary, volunteer, or as a translator. You can also join one of the teams that come to help us on a mission trip.

Please contact us for more information at: info@sushijos.org



7. Our Events and Celebrations

“And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”.

Matthew 18:3

As a Christian organization we know that God is the base of everything. We cover everything in prayer and know that our labor is not for this world but for Him. Our work is to bring joy to the babies, toddlers, children, and young adults we serve. Even if it is just a break in the day from the garbage that life throws at them, it's a moment to see Christ shine.

We work so hard at events that we have. Some of our yearly activities include:

- Valentine's day celebration
- July 4th celebration
- Quinceañeras party
- Children day celebration
- Thanksgiving celebration
- Christmas Angel Tree
- Christmas Celebrations
- Others

Many people who benefit from these events are from communities, orphanages, Transition homes and clients/employees of the State Diner culinary program.

These events are an opportunity for His Children to make a difference in their lives, let them know about the name of Jesus His Grace and that they are loved.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 pandemic, one of these activities in 2021 did not happen, many have been smaller, but we have hope that soon people will be free once again to celebrate!



Some activities that we celebrate this year are:

- **Valentine's day:**

Around Valentine's Day we visit Ahuachapán which is a State in El Salvador where we have been working for the past 20 years. There are around 1,000 kids in the communities. We work in a town called "Comunidad Chinchilla, Canton Chancuyo". Many communities that are nearby also participate with their kids and we give gifts, food, clothing, and other items. We have 3-5 "jumpy things", soccer games, Frisbee tournaments, face painting, snow cones, popcorn, Bibles, and Jesus. Always a fun day.

- **Independence Day July 4th:**

The Sunday around July the fourth we celebrate the independence of the United States. The celebration takes place in El Salvador at Salvador de Mundo Plaza. It is an open event for children, adults and families. The purpose of this event is to let people know about our many projects, and of course about the States Diner culinary school. It is an all-day event that ends at night with fireworks. We have live music, DJ's, dance companies, A Classic car show, "jumpy things", American football team in El Salvador, face painting, snow cones, popcorn, Bibles and many other activities and fun activities. Fun for the whole family.

- **Children day celebration:**

In October we celebrate the day of the child in the orphanages and communities with whom we have built relationships and houses over the years. We have a party with popcorn, snow cones, face painting, piñatas and balloons. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, all the parties took place in every center and directly in the communities. This year the centers we visited were:

1. Hogar del Niño San Vicente de Paul,
2. CISNA,
3. Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos,
4. CIS Femenino,
5. CIS El Espino,
6. Pastor Esteban's Community
7. and Albergue Nacional.

- **Fall festival Celebration:**

This year we celebrated with a haunted house, inflatables, games, face painting, popcorn, and great food where families could relax and feel safe. We had a costume contest for the kids and adults with prizes. What a great night of family fun for everyone. This event was at the States Diner



- **Thanksgiving:**

This one is also hosted by the States Diner culinary program. This event is open to the public. We ask that they bring a family dish to share. It's a time to share great food and celebrate as a family with 200 or so of your closest family members and friends. We pray and give thanks for everybody in the room and let them know that God is truly blessing us.

- **Christmas Party:**

The main celebration takes place in La Libertad; we work with three different communities near the beach. This event has been going on for over 30 years and now it has been in our care for the last 10 years. All the people of this community know us because we have built dozens of houses in the community and fed thousands of families.

At this party we celebrate the Birth of Jesus with a short play about His life, the kids in the community also participate. We feed them lunch and snacks. We also have piñatas for the kids as well as the over 60 adults, snow cones, popcorn, face painting, balloons, gifts for the kids that are wrapped according to the age of the child with what they asked for Christmas.



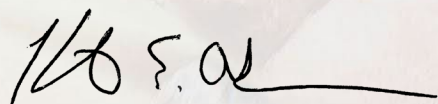
A final letter from Kurt Ackermann

I would like to thank all the people personally for all the sacrifices that they have made this past year. It has not been an easy year, but a blessed year. We moved into our new “Home” and that is what it is. I now have a bunch of teenagers sitting around at night, watching TV together, cooking together and just living the best life. They are safe. They have a place to read. They have places to study. They have games. They are safe. We are a family in a home. For me personally trying to fight off sadness because of the tragedy and injustice I see around me every day is a struggle. I want to do more, serve Him more, but most days it is hard without having enough of a support group and lack of funding. It sucks. But God is good.

I am encouraged to see what 2022 will bring and look forward to His work to outlive me.



Love you guys,



Kurt E. Ackermann

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25:35